(b) if so, by when; and

(c) what is the current status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The techno-economic feasibility report prepared by the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO)) of Maharashtra for construction of a second international airport at Navi Mumbai is under examination.

Postponement of Fleet Acquisition of AI

1368. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Air India has postponed its decision on fleet acquisition due to lack of time;

(b) whether some urgency and importance needs to be given to this longstanding case considering the fact that the decision has been pending for over ten years now; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking on tne fleet modernisation of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Board of Air India in its meeting held on 12.12.2001 set up an Expert Committee to develop Air India fleet plans for next five years. This committee submitted an interim report to the Management, which was examined by the Sub-Committee of the Board of Air India. The Board of Air India accepted the recommendations of the Sub-Committee and authorised the Management to proceed with the formation of a separate Technical Committee to finalise ground rules and other requirements for inviting competitive bids. This Technical committee has now submitted its report and further action is being taken for inviting bids.

Development of Visakhapatnam Airport

1369. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop Visakhapatnam Airport;

(b) if so, the allocation made therefor; and

(c) by when the runway would be improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the proposal for development of Visakhapatnam airport jointly by the Ministry of Defence, Airports Authority of India and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 191.52 crores. Action for development work has already been initiated and is expected to be completed within three years from the date of award of work.

Strengthening of Security at Hyderabad Airport

1370. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that security at the Hyderabad International Airport is not adequate;

(b) whether it is a fact that lack of vehicles for QRT (Quick Response Team), CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) and shortage of walkie talkies etc., are some of the reasons; and

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to take to strengthen security at Hyderabad International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Security arrangements at all airports including Hyderabad International Airport are as per the ICAO guidelines and the National Civil Aviation Security Programme.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has so far provided six vehicles as per the recommendations of the Committee consisting of representatives of AAI and CISF. AAI has also provided 15 walkie-talkies as against the requirement of 44. The remaining 29 are under procurement.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to ensure the security of all the airports including Hyderabad International Airport, *inter alia*, include:

(i) Surveillance and patrolling of the perimeter wall;

(ii) Stricter access control and through pre-embarkation security checks;

(iii) Deployment of CISF and Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs);

(iv) Screening of baggage.